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Remarks—General

Overcoming Raichlen, Seydel and Wu

Applicant now overcomes the rejection of claims 92-99 on Raichlen, Seydel and Wu, by adding new restrictions to claims, and by further detailed analysis of the citations. Two major new restrictions have been added to this application's main claims. First, a dual spine, a structure neither present nor suggested in any of the references. Second, a wide sliding lock, spanning, enclosing and moving along both parallel rails of the dual spine, an additional structure absent from all the references and suggested by none.

The new claim restrictions do not stand alone in overcoming Raichlen, Seydel and Wu. We respectfully submit that Examiner's reliance on these references in rejecting the previous claims was based on assumptions about obviousness of applicant's sliding locks which turn out to be untrue upon close examination of the details in each case.

Overcoming Examiner's Central Objection

Examiner states in the second sentence of his Section 4 that Seydel, Wu and Raichlen teach "quick-attach and -detach locks". But Wu teaches no lock at all. He relies upon gravity alone to retain a golf bag in his simple cradle. No quick-attach nor quick-detach can occur because there are no parts capable of attaching or detaching.

Seydel likewise provides no parts capable of action, quickly or otherwise, either to attach or detach containers. He teaches passive

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horizontal channels, immovably fixed to a central spine. To retain a container in place, the user must lift and tilt the container, inserting container wall beneath channel lip. The lifting and tilting actions must be repeated to release the container. This demand for consumer lifting is directly opposite to the quick-acting sliding locks of the present application, which let users accomplish their locking and releasing actions with minimum effort, without requiring any lifting of containers.

Examiner's assertion that Raichlen teaches quick-acting locks is denied by the slow, ponderous, laborious chain of 11 separate events he describes in detail as being necessary to lock a container aboard his cart.

Taken together, the three citations present no trace of any quick-acting locks anywhere among them. There is nothing about the three references to suggest any possible leap of imagination to achieve the quick-sliding locks of this application.

Examiner suggests it would be obvious to take two of Raichlen's 47 components, his arm-height-selecting lug and the lug-mounting channel, remove the lug-fixing pin, attach a Seydel fixed horizontal channel to the lug, devise a means of mounting the lug-mounting channel on applicant's cart's frame, arrange a means of folding Seydel's lug-mounting channel in coordination with the rest of applicant's folding frame, and somehow find a way to avoid interference between that folding hardware and the movement of lugs within the folding channel. Applicant submits that all of the above requires so many modifications of components of the references as to rule out any possibility of obviousness. Furthermore, if the indicated assembly were to be accomplished at all it would prove to be unworkable.

The block shape now claimed in greater detail for applicant's sliding lock, described in the specification and shown in the drawings, has an

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important purpose in addition to its sliding locking and sliding unlocking actions. It functions as a handle for user to grasp when actuating the lock. Three years of shopping experience with applicant's working model have shown the importance of the blocks on these locks. For example, with fingers beneath block 45U in Fig. 1 and thumb atop handle brace 49, a gentle hand squeeze draws block to brace, releasing the upper basket. A similar squeeze between lower block 45L and an opening in upper anchor block 37U releases the lower basket. Also, the blocks serve the additional function of enhancing the dual spine's structural rigidity.

Overcoming Shaffer

Rejection of claims 100-03 relies upon Examiner's view that Shaffer teaches a plurality of pin mounts comparable to applicant's. In fact, Shaffer's baskets are set upon hooks, not pin mounts, each set of hooks fixing a basket immovably to the frame. Applicant's pin mounts have an entirely different structure, and they operate on an entirely different principle. Each basket swings freely, leveled by gravity like ferris-wheel seats. This allows improved access for large or oddly-shaped items to be inserted into lower containers.

Applicant has re-drafted the main claim 100 to clarify the important differences of his mounts. Shaffer would have had no reason to approach applicant's design, and indeed, should such imitation be attempted, the results would have been unworkable due to interference among baskets, Shaffer's complex folding hardware and horizontal crossbars on his frame.

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Conditional Request for Constructive Assistance

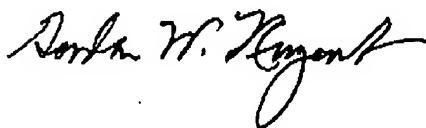
Applicant has amended the claims of this application so that they are proper, definite, and define novel structure which is also unobvious. Therefore applicant now solicits reconsideration and allowance.

If, for any reason, this application is not believed to be in full condition for allowance, applicant respectfully reminds Examiner that he has been and is again invited to write an acceptable claim in order to further illuminate for applicant the necessary approach to achieving allowable condition.

Summary of Claims

Applicant submits that all claims have been rewritten to render them allowable over the cited references. Applicant further declares that he considers all new claims submitted herewith to be readable upon the elected species.

Very respectfully,



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